

## Operations Updates

### Program Updates

Program staff are partnering with our volunteers to identify and develop outdoor program opportunities in the areas where we are closing or have closed a camp.

In Warren County (previously served by Birdsall Edey), 19 relationships have been formed to offer rock climbing, swimming, fishing, environmental education and related opportunities. Specifically, three programs are being planned, including Fishing 101 and two sessions of Walk in the Wildflowers. Future programming includes air rifles and archery. There is a core group of volunteers that are supporting Day Camp, however, more volunteers are needed to develop event, series and progressive programming.

Previously served by Camp Lend-A-Hand, Crawford County, girls will have new opportunities to attend programs about geocaching and outdoor cooking. Five council programs are scheduled, including Bread & Butter, Sow Your Garden 101, Wild About Wildlife and Canoe and Camp (two sessions). Relationships with 17 providers have been formed and this area has an excited group of program volunteers and looking for more to join their efforts.

Andrea Kelly, the Camp Pathways Manager servicing Beaver County (Camp Wright-O-Way is closing on October 15, 2011), is currently recruiting a program team for the area, and is reaching out to local colleges for volunteer support. She is building relationships with 22 program sites in the area, including Camp Kon-O-Kwee, Spencer YMCA, Brady's Run Park and Old Economy Village. Two council events are scheduled this spring—

Father-Daughter Fishing Derby and Between Earth and Sky.

Camp Trefoil Trails, in Mercer County, is closing on October 15, 2011. Relationships are being developed with 20 program sites in the area, including Pymatuning State Park, Brandy Spring Park and Coolspring Corn Maze. These relationships will offer a variety of activities including camping, swimming, yoga and self defense. Brownie Quest in the Park is a council event scheduled for this spring.

In Washington County, served by Camp Timberlake (closing October 15, 2012), 25 relationships have been formed, offering horseback riding, camping, farming/ rural education and related opportunities. Five council programs are being planned, including the Introduction to Skin-Diving and Snorkeling Series, Horse Fan Series, Endangered Species Day and two levels of Horse Rider Series. There is a core group of volunteers providing valuable input into what is needed for alternative locations and program types.

Karla Schell, the Camp Pathways Manager servicing Allegheny County (Camp Yough is closing on October 15, 2013), is currently recruiting a program team for the area and is reaching out to the Yough Day Camp group for volunteer support. She is building relationships with 22 program sites in the area, including South Park Cabin, Venture Outdoors, YMCA McKeesport, Frick Park and Emerald View Park. The Woodland People is a council event scheduled for this spring.

### Volunteer Updates

Since the Fall Town Hall meetings, significant changes to Volunteer Management have occurred. The goal is a more streamlined approach to recruitment, screening, placement and support for our volunteers. These include:

- Reorganized staffing positions to more effectively manage the components of volunteer management.
- Implemented the GSUSA Personify database module that manages volunteer records.
- With new module in place, significantly increased the number of volunteer applications processed to date.
- Revised the volunteer application process to streamline potential volunteer screening for decreasing time of entry to actual placement.
- Implemented a new volunteer support resource by conducting monthly webinars on various time-related topics.

Volunteers are the key to success in building our leaders of tomorrow. GSWPA is committed to continuing increased support and recognition of our volunteers for all they invest in our girls.

\*The Girl Scout Gold Award Committee is recruiting additional volunteers to have a more regional presence. If you are interested, contact Renee Watson at 800-248-3355 ext. 1418 or [rwatson@gswnpa.org](mailto:rwatson@gswnpa.org).

## GSWPA Board Actions

**The Board of Directors met on Nov. 20, 2010, Jan. 15, 2011 and Feb. 15, 2011.**

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING—NOV. 20, 2010

- Approval of the bank resolution
- Approval of nominee for a board and approved adult award
- Approved moving forward into negotiations with Casella Waste to extend the option agreement with the caveat that the property committee be involved
- The compensation committee of the board approved the performance rating and the recommended compensation package for the CEO

- Approved moving forward into negotiations with Casella Waste for the draft option agreement. After review, and prior to signing, there will be a special meeting of the Board of Directors
- Approve the Audit Report as presented

### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS—Feb. 15, 2011

- Approved the option agreement with Casella Waste Management to sell Camp Resting Waters for landfill expansion.

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING—JAN. 15, 2011

- Approved to increase the yearly inspections of the Eberly Learning Center from 1 inspection a year to two inspections a year, with 1 inspection being done before winter and the other at the end of the winter season, prior to spring and summer camps and activities

## GSWPA Property

1. Camp Lend-A-Hand continues to be marketed for sale through Howard Hanna Realty. Information packages were sent out to various groups and agencies. A non-profit organization visited the camp on two occasions in November and December 2010. They are working with bank and legal representatives to make an offer to purchase the property.
2. Property site teams completed deferred and targeted projects for 2010. Some of the notable projects:

- Camp Conshatawba—Main road repairs and paving, along with a new filter system for the swimming pool.
- Camp Hawthorne Ridge—Installed a new roof on the restrooms and installed an ADA ramp and parking area at the swimming pool.
- Camp Redwing—Installed timbers to support and secure Orchards tent platforms.
- Camp Resting Waters—Completed an exterior makeover of the Chalet Lodge with a new roof, new concrete porch and staining the exterior of the building.

These are just a few of the projects that were done this past year. Each camp that is remaining within the council has had one to two identified projects completed. GSWPA has completed just over \$60,000 of deferred projects in the year 2010.

## Policy Update—Fundraising for Troops and Groups

### Policy: Donations to Troops Exceeding \$250

The processing fee policy pertaining to troops receiving unsolicited funds has been changed. The fee has been changed from 25 percent (no maximum limit) to 10 percent with a maximum charge of \$25. This fee applies to unsolicited donations over \$250, received by the Fund Development department.

The policy remains the same regarding the prohibition of troops soliciting donations. Troops and groups may not solicit cash gifts, donations or grants of any monetary value, with one exception for Girl Scout Gold Award candidates only. Girls participating in approved Girl Scout Gold Award projects may ask for money, materials or services with an approval from the committee and appropriate Girl Scout staff. Requests will be managed by GSLE Manager, Renee Watson.

## GSUSA National Convention

Less than a year from now—Nov. 10–13—the 2011 National Council Session/52nd Convention will unfold in Houston, Texas, affirming the unity of the Girl Scout movement and launching Girl Scouts into its next century of existence. The Council Board Development committee has developed the National Council delegate slate. This slate will be approved at the GSWPA Annual Meeting on April 16, 2011. However, any one can attend the Council Session as a Visitor.

Here's a brief overview of what November will bring:

- An invigorating and efficient National Council Session (business meeting) designed to give delegates and official visitors plenty of time to enjoy other convention activities.
- Inspiring “celebration sessions” that incorporate tried and true elements of convention, opening and closing ceremonies, keynote speakers, Young Women of Distinction, as well as the official launch of Girl Scouts’ 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign.
- Girl Scout Leadership Institute programming for girls beginning on Thursday, Nov. 10, and continuing throughout the week.
- Innovative educational/professional development opportunities for volunteers and Girl Scout council staff members.
- Unveiling of a nationwide community service project
- A “history conference” organized by Girl Scouts’ National Historic Preservation Center in celebration of 100 years of Girl Scouting
- Top-notch entertainers, a few surprises—and fun!

Registration and housing will open soon. Please contact Karen Duncan at 800-248-3355 ext. 1006 or [kduncan@gswpa.org](mailto:kduncan@gswpa.org) if you wish to be housed in the GSWPA block. The convention site will be updated regularly with new information, so be sure to check [girlscouts.org/convention](http://girlscouts.org/convention) for the latest information.

### The Girl Scout Leadership Institute (GSLI)

The Girl Scout Leadership Institute will take place from Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011 through Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011 during the 52nd National Convention in Houston, Texas.

All Girl Scout Councils will be able to select up to 10 girl members to participate in the GSLI experience. GSWPA also plans to send three adults—two staff members and one volunteer. Girls who applied but were not selected to participate as GSWPA delegates will have the first opportunity to attend the GSLI experience.

Beginning in late March, an application will be available to fill the additional girl spots. An application will also be available for adults who are interested in chaperoning the trip. Applications for both will be due by the end of April, and participants (both girl and adult) will be selected by a committee of volunteers and staff in May.

The Council will subsidize 50 percent of the costs associated with registration, travel, housing and food; however, girl participants will be responsible for the remaining \$571 per girl. Girls may seek additional financial assistance using the GSWPA Financial Assistance Form.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### GSWPA Annual Meeting—April 16, 2011, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

#### Main Location

University of Pittsburgh (Oakland)  
Frick Fine Arts Auditorium  
Frick Fine Arts Building, Room 125  
(Schenley Drive)  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

#### Satellite Locations

Clarion University  
Gemmell Student Complex,  
Room 152  
Clarion, PA 16214

GSWPA Greensburg Office  
126 East Otterman St.  
Greensburg, PA 15601

GSWPA Johnstown Office  
612 Locust St.  
Johnstown, PA 15901

GSWPA Kittanning Office  
2359 Freeport Rd.  
Kittanning, PA 16201

GSWPA Southpointe Office  
345 Southpointe Blvd., 3rd floor  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Malin, Bergquist & Company, LLP  
2402 West 8th St.  
Erie, PA 16505

University of Pittsburgh (Bradford)  
Swarts Hall, Room 162  
300 Campus Dr.  
Bradford, PA 16701

# GSWPA Town Hall Meeting Report-Spring 2011

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge 2011-12

How girls wish to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Scouting is up to them! Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania has compiled a list of ideas from our girl and adult members (plant 100 trees, hike 100 miles, tie 100 green ribbons around trees for March 12, 2012 and many more) to include in our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge. Girls and troops can choose which challenge they'd like to complete from the list featured on our website and on pg. 77 of the spring/summer 2011 issue of *S'MORE* magazine.

Once girls complete the challenge, they can print a Trefoil Marker from our website, fill in their activity and name or troop number, and then take a photo with the Trefoil Marker and e-mail it to [webmaster@gswpa.org](mailto:webmaster@gswpa.org) so that it can be promoted on the council website or in publications. Additionally, girls can find a location in their community—a Girl Scout meeting place, school or community center—in which all Trefoil Markers can be put on display to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Girls and troops are also encouraged to send a press release to let the community know about their achievements. Check out our list of challenges, download the Trefoil Marker and get more information at [gswpa.org/girls/100th-anniversary-opportunities/100th-anniversary-challenge](http://gswpa.org/girls/100th-anniversary-opportunities/100th-anniversary-challenge).

## Forever Green

This spring, we'll be gearing up for our council's Forever Green Take Action Projects. In April, girls attending Earth Day events throughout the council will be provided with inspiration and initial information on the initiative, and Program Teams will be given the charge of choosing which of the three focus areas our council will undertake: reducing plastic waste, Earth Hour and/or rain gardens. A project guide, promotional materials and other resources for girls to develop their Forever Green Action Projects will be distributed at the Fall Kick-off Events in August 2011, and the projects themselves will take place in February, March and/or April of 2012. For more information, check out the newly launched GSUSA Forever Green website at [girlscouts.org/geforevergreen](http://girlscouts.org/geforevergreen).

## Girl Scout Reunions

Camp Reunions have been scheduled for the following camps, in conjunction with the Camp Open House season:

*Camp Conshatawba: Sunday, May 22, 2011, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*

*Camp Hawthorne Ridge: Saturday, May 14, 2011, noon-4 p.m.*

*Camp Skymeadow: Sunday, May 15, 2011, 1-3 p.m.*

*Camp Resting Waters: Saturday, June 4, 2011, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.*

To register, visit [gswpa.org](http://gswpa.org) and click "Online Registration." For more information, or to volunteer to help, please e-mail the specific camp (ie. [conshatawba@gswpa.org](mailto:conshatawba@gswpa.org)). Information on planning Service Unit Reunions will be included in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Toolkit, which will be available online March 12, 2011.

## Bridging to the Future

Girls bridging to the next level of Girl Scouts, as well as Ambassadors bridging to adult membership, will take part in bridging ceremonies on Saturday Aug. 18, 2012 on actual bridges throughout the state. Girls can attend the large-scale ceremony in Pittsburgh, in conjunction with the Grand Celebration, or plan their own ceremony locally. Information on planning these historic Bridging Ceremonies will also be provided in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Toolkit.

## Grand Celebration

Mark your calendar for Aug. 17-19, 2012 and join us in Pittsburgh for the Grand Celebration of 100 years of Girl Scouting! This action-packed weekend will include a parade, entertainment, activities and programs, a large-scale Bridging to the Future Event, a Gold Award/Alumna Reunion Brunch and much more! Detailed information will be provided at the Fall Kick-off Events in August 2011.